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From Our Own Correspondents.

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FIFTH SUNDAY
MEETING ASSOCIATION
OFCANADA

MONTREAL, APRIL 10th, 1920

Vol. 2, No. 15

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The United States Tariff Board

(By George Pierce.)

THESE are members of our cabinet and there are numerous members of parliament who are sceptical as to the practicability of the proposed Tariff Board. We have been so engrossed in the business of war and reconstruction that we have given little study to the development and growth of one of the most efficient and most valuable departments ever organized in the interest of trade expansion and industrial development, the American Tariff Board, and our trade is suffering just in proportion to the complacency with which we bask in our smug indifference.

The appointment of the Tariff Board in the United States was under authority of section 2 of the Tariff Act of August 5th, 1909. This section contained those words: "To secure information to assist the president in the discharge of the duties imposed upon him in this section, and the officers of the Government in the administration of the customs laws, the president is hereby authorized to employ such persons as may be required." The members were accordingly appointed in September, 1909, and held their first meeting on the 24th of that month.

The question before us is precisely this, what has been accomplished by this department in the year 1919? Are the achievements of this scientific board so evidently valuable, so demonstrably practical, that we Canadians can profit from their elaborate experience by establishing a similar board?

It was in April, 1909, that the Americans made very elaborate investigations regarding the industrial effects of their own tariffs. For this purpose, Mr. Emery, Chairman of the Board, travelled extensively in Germany and Austria-Hungary while Mr. Reynolds, an-

other member, visited France, Italy, Switzerland, Germany and Great Britain. The results were very fruitful. In his report, Mr. Emery says: "We have established a direct line of communication and co-operation between the board and European industrial centres. We have learnt much as to what information is obtainable, where it is, and who will give it to us." Once a proper survey of the work had been made, the field was divided into three departments. The first or primary work was placed in the hands of a force of men trained to statistical and economic studies and investigations. They were assisted by technical experts in different industrial lines. Their particular duty was to secure concise information regarding the nature of the article, the chief domestic and foreign sources of supply, methods of production, principle uses, statistics of production imports and exports, with an estimate of the valorem equivalent for all specific duties. This department was authorized to publish a glossary of the tariff so that the manufacturer would be able to determine how the domestic production compared with that abroad and would further know what was the actual duty expressed in ad valorem terms.

The second branch was constituted of trained men who would go directly into the different centres of industry and work directly on the books of the manufacturing plants. Their particular duty was associated with the actual costs of production in industry.

The third class is made up of men who are qualified to deliver specific information under particular conditions. It is their duty to secure accurate information on prices at home and the peculiar local conditions affecting industry. They are also required to report on general conditions of home and foreign competition to which such an industry is subject.

To understand the importance of this work in the industrial life of the Republic, one need but examine the remarkable results attained by the board. The board has issued a tariff information catalogue so as to place all phases of the tariff situation before Congress in a manner to insure well-advised legislation. Publications are issued embracing general descriptions, sizes, methods and process of manufacture, notable divergencies between American and foreign methods, nature and source of materials, domestic production and exports, imports from principal countries, revenue from imports, the extent to which imports compete with domestic production, cost of manufacture in foreign countries, suggestions

for changes and other pertinent data as regards:—silk and manufactures of silk; the button industry; the glass industry as affected by the war; the surgical instrument industry; the brush industry.

Preliminary reports on dye stuff and textile industries are published. Also the census of the production of dyes and coal-tar chemicals. The following publications are nearly completed:—Sugar Production, Imports, and Competitive Conditions; Minor Acids; Heavy Chemicals; Cotton Goods; Cotton Yarns; Agricultural Products; Free Zones; Reciprocity and Commercial Treaties; Preferential Tariffs within the British Empire; French Colonial Tariffs; German Colonial Tariffs; Japanese Trade During the War; The Tariff System of Japan; Industrial Development of Japan prior to and during the war; Tariff in China; Trade Report of China.

The following articles are covered by tariff information catalogues that have been completed:—Abrasives: Natural, Abrasives garnet, Burrstones, Corundum, Diamond dust and bort, Diatomaceous earth, Emery, Flints and flint stones, Grindstones, Hones, Millstones, Oilstones, Pebbles for grinding, Pulp Stones, Pumice, Rottenstone, Seythstones, Tripoli, Whetstones. Artificial:—Carbides of silicon, Grit, shot and sand, made of iron and steel, Oxides of aluminum, Steel wool or steel shavings, Acetic anhydride, Acetphenetidin.

Acids: Acetylsalicylic, Boracic, Citric, Formic, Glycerophosphoric, Hydrochloric or Muriatic, Lactic, Oxalic, Sulphuric, Tartaric.

Aluminum, Antimony, Antimony ore, Antipyrine, Argols.

Barium: carbonate, chloride, dioxide, and artificial sulphate.

Barytes, Baskets, Bauxite, Bells, Bleaching powder, Boots and shoes, Borax, Brier root, Brierwood, Bristles, Brushes, Buckles, Buttons, Cables, Calcium cyanamide, Carbon tetrachloride, Chloral hydrate, Chloroform, Chloride of tin, Chloride of zinc, Cinchona bark, Coal, Cobalt, Coffee, Cork, Cotton gloves, Cotton collars and cuffs, Cryolite or kryolith, Cyanide of potash, Ethyl chloride, Ferrochrome or ferrochromium, Ferromanganese, Ferromolybdenum, Glauber salts, Glycerine, Glycerophosphoric salts and compounds, Guaiacal carbon, Hay, Hooks and eyes, metallic, Iron ore.

Iron or steel: Barbed wire, Cut nails, Cut spikes, Horseshoes, Ox Shoes, Rails, Railway bars, Terne-plates, Wire nails.

Ivy root, Laurel root, Borate of Lime, Citrate of Lime, Matchel, Matte containing antimony, Molybdenum, Monazite sand.

Nickel: Alloy, In pigs, Ore, Oxide.

Nirte cake, Phenolphthalein, Pig iron, Potatoes, Pyrites, Quicksilver, Salol, Salt cake, Salt.

Silk: Bolting cloth, Cocoons, Partially manufactured, Raw, Spun, Thrown, Waste.

Soda: Ash, Bicarbonate, Borate of, Carbonate of, Caustic, Crystals, Monohydrate of, Sal, Sesquicarbonate of, Sulphate of, Supercarbonate of.

Spiegeleisen, Straw hats, Sulphur, Sulphuret of iron, Surgical instruments, Tea, Tea plants, Terp in hydrate, Thorite, Thorium, Thy-mol.

Tin: Black oxide of, Grain, Granulated, In bars, blocks, pigs, and plates, Ore, Scrap, Taggers.

Tungsten, Tungsten-bearing ores, Urea, Wool yarns, Zaffer, Acentanilid.

Acids: Benzoic, Carbolic, Chromic, Gallie, Phthalic, Pyrogallie, Salicylic, Sillicie.

Aconite.

Albumen: Egg, dried, Egg, frozen or liquid.

Alder bark, Alkaloids, Almonds, Alheat root, leaves or flowers, Aluminum, manufactures of.

Ammonia: Carbonate of, Liquid anhydrous, Muriate of, Nitrate of, Perchlorate of, Phosphate of, Sulphate of.

Ammoniacal gas liquor, Areca nuts, Angostura bark, Anilin oil and salts, Arnica root and flowers, Asafetida, Asbestos, manufactures of, Bagaetle balls, Balm of gilead, Balm of gilead buds.

Balsams: Copaiba, Canada, Pern gurun, Tolu.

Barley, Bayberry bark, Beads, Beans: Tonka, Vanilla.

Belladonna leaves and root, Benzaldehyde, Benzoin, Blackberry bark, Black-haw bark, Bones, crude, Breach-loading shotguns and rifles.

Brick: Chrome, Magnesite.

Bristles, Briarwood metal, old.

Bromin, Brooms, Buckhorn bark.

Bullion: Base, Gold, Lead, Silver.

Bullion, Cadmium, Caffeine and compounds of, Colocynth fruit, Calamine, Calendula flowers, Calomel, Camphor, Canella bark, Cannabiss, Cantharides, Cascara sagrada bark, Cascarilla bark, Castoreum, Chains.

Chalk: Billiard, Crude, In cubes, blocks, sticks, or disks, French, crude, Manufactures of, Precipitated, Red, Tailors.

Chess balls, Chessmen, China-ware, Chiretta herb, Chocolate, Chromium, Civet.

Cloth: Tracing, Vegetable fibre, Waterproof, cotton.

Cocaine, Cocculus indicus, Cocoa Butter, Composition metal, Condurango bark, Copal, Copper ore.

Cotton: Bagging for, Bandings, Bath mats, Batting, Bed sets, lace, Belting for machinery, Beltings, Belts, Bindings, Blankets, Bone casings, Boot lacings, Braces, Candlewicking, Card laps, Carded yarn, Chenille curtains, Chenille tagle covers, Cloth, Clothing, ready-made, Collets, Combination suits, Cords and tassels, Corduroys, Corset covers, Corset lacings, Crochet, Cuffs, Darning, Drawers, Dress facings, bias, Embroidery, Fabric, suitable for pneumatic tires, Fibre

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Earthenware: Common yellow, Rockingham, White granite.

Eggs: Dried, Frozen, Prepared or preserved, Yolk of.

Elm bark, Ergot, Eucalyptol, Eucalyptus leaves and oil, Ferrophosphorus, Ferrosilicon, Ferrotitanium, Ferrotungsten, Ferrovanadium, Files, file blanks, raspa, etc., Fishhooks, fishing rods, and reels, Gambier, Gentian root.

Glass: Bottles, Carboys, Common window, Cylinder, Decanters, Demijohns, Jars, Unpolished, Vials.

Grapefruit, Grapes, dried, Guarana, Gum arabic.

Hair: Curled, Human, Press-cloth.

Haireloth, Hops, Hospital supplies, Hospital utensils, aluminum, Hyoscyamus leaves, Iceland moss, Iethyol.

Ingots: Cogged, Nickel, Platinum, Steel, Bessemer, etc., Steel, rolled, hammered, etc.

Instruments: Dental, Scientific, Surveying.

Iodide of potassium, Iodine, Iodoform, Ipecac.

Iron or steel: Angles, Antifric-tion balls, Anvils, Axles, Ball bearings, Beams, Billets and bars, Blacksmith's hammers, tongs, etc., Blades, knife, etc., Blooms and slabs, Boiler, Brads, Card clothing, Channels, Deck beams, Forgings, Girders, Hobnails, Horseshoe-nail rods, Horseshoe-nails, Hospital utensils, Joists, Kitchen utensils, Nail rods, Nuts or nut blanks, Parasol ribs and stretchers, Railway fishplates, Railway wheels, Riverts, studs, etc., Roller bearings, Screws, Spikes, Structural, Table utensils, Tacks, Tagger's tin, Umbrella ribs and stretchers, Wire fencing, Wire rods,

cold rolled, Wire, round, Wire sap-tles.

Jalap, Karaya gum, Kauri, Kitchen utensils, aluminum.

Knives: Budding, Butcher's, Carving, Cook's, Kitchen, Pruning, Table.

Laboratory glassware, Lac dye, Lace curtains.

Lead: Dross, Pigs and bars. Lead-bearing ores.

Leather: Bags, Baskets, Belts, Cardcases, Enameled upholstery, Gloves, Jewel boxes, Manufactures of, Pianoforte, Pocketbooks, Portfolios, Satchels.

Leaves: Buchu, Coco.

Leeches, Lemons, Licorice root and paste, Limes, Machine tools, Magnesiet, Magnesium.

Manganese: Ore of, Oxide of.

Manganiferous iron ore, Manna, Menthol, Mezereon bark, Musk, grained and in pods, Muskets, air rifles, muzzle-loading shotguns and rifles, and parts thereof, Myrobolans fruit, Naphthalin.

Needles: Crochet, Hand sewing and darning, Knitting, Latch, Sewing-machine, Shoe-machine, Tape.

Nippers and pliers, Nux vomica. Oils: Cod-liver, Olive, Pepper-mint.

Old zinc, Olivres, Opium, Oranges, Penholder tips, penholders and parts, Penknives, Pens, metallie, Phenol, Photographic films, plates, cameras, etc., Pins, with solid heads.

Pipes: Cast-iron, Lap-welded and butt-welded.

Pitch, Burgundy, Plate, iron or steel.

Platinum: Apparatus, Bars, Ingots, In plates, Metal ores, Scrap, Sheets, Unmanufactured, Wire.

Pomegranate bark, Pool balls, Poplar bark.

Potash: Bicarbonate of, Bichromate of, Carbonate of, Chlorate of, Chromate of, Crude, Hydrate of, Muriate of, Nitrate of, crude and refined, Permanganate of, Prussiate of, red and yellow, Sulphate of.

Prickly ash bark, Quassia, Quinia, sulphate of, Raisins, Regulus of copper, Rhubarb root, Rice.

Root: Dandelion, Sarsaparilla.

Saccharin, St. Ugnatius beans, Salep, Salicin, Saltpeter, crude and refined, Santonin, Sassafras bark.

Saws: Drag, Crosseut, Mill, Pit. Scammony root and gum, Seeds, cardamon.

Silk: Artificial, Bandings, Belts and belting, Bindings, Chenilles, Clothing, ready-made, Combed, Floss, Handkerchiefs, Hatbands, Knit goods, Mufflers, Manufactures of, Noils, Pile fabrics, Plush, black or hatters', Plush ribbons, Plushers, Ribbons, Sewing, Sleeve linings, Stripes, Tram, Velvet ribbons, Vel-

vets, Wearing apparel, Woven fabrics, Yarn, schappe.

Slag, basic, Soap bark.

Soda: Benzoate of, Bichromate of, Chromate of, Nitrate of, Nitrite of, Prussiate of, yellow, Sillicate of, Sulphid of.

Spangles, Steatite.

Steel: Bars, Crucible, Railway bars, Scrap, Shapes, Wool.

Stibnite containing antimony, Stramonium leaves, Strychnine, Styrox root, Simarubra, Sword blades, swords, and side arms, Tale, ground, Taleum, crude, Tamarinds, Tannin, Tragacanth gum, Titanium, Tobacco, Type metal Walnuts, Wheat, Whiting, Wild sherry bark, Wire fencing, galvanized.

Wire: Round, Staples, Witch hazel, Wool, Yarn, asbestos, Zinc-bearing ores.

Zinc: Dust, In blocks, pigs, or sheets, Manufactures of, Oxide of.

It may surprise our readers to know that the cost of gathering this valuable information has been remarkably low by comparison with the industrial gain to the country generally. The following statement shows the expenditures of the commission from July 1st, 1917, to June 30th, 1918:

Salaries of comission-ers.....	\$ 41,979.16
Salaries of staff.....	105,370.82
Rent of offices.....	12,473.11
Furniture, equipment, etc.	12,764.16
Traveling expenses.....	7,354.74

Total.....\$179,941.99

A detailed classification of the personnel of the Commission is shown in the following statement:

Commissioners.....	6
Secretary.....	1
Clerks to commissioners.....	3
Special experts.....	28
Clerks.....	41
Messengers.....	3
Telephone operator.....	1
Laborer.....	1

Total.....84

In a coming number, we shall indulge in greaetr elaborations so that no doubt may be left in the minds of those who profess scepticism as to the value of scientific tariff-making versus the wild and woolly, willy, nilly, wholly senseless and inefficient methods in our present blundering system. The people of hte Dominion are demanding a business administration. There can be no such thing unless we lay the foundation by the establishment of a Tariff Board, based upon scientific research affording our law-makers accurate information to enable them to enact well-advised tariff legislation.

AN AWKWARD QUESTION

Sir Alfred Booth chairman of the Cunard steamship line, was asked an awkward question while testifying at a wage hearing called to consider demands of longshore workers. The witness had it all figured out what was necessary to maintain a docker's family in decency and comfort, and then he was asked if he would be willing to accept this standard. He admitted that he would not.

WHITLEY COUNCIL'S STEADY GROWTH

The Federation of British Industries reports "Steady progress is being made with the Whitley Council movement. The second edition of the Joint Industrial Council's Bulletin, which is now being issued by the Ministry of Labor, gives satisfactory evidence of this. There are 51 councils in existence, representing over 4,000,000 workers, and, if the negotiations now proceeding are satisfactorily concluded, 16 other councils will soon be added, representing a further three-quarters of a million workers."

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April 10th, 1920

—APR 10th, 1920

The British Labor Party

What it is and how it looks

(By Ethelbert Pogson, London Correspondent of The Railroader.)

TO deal in any comprehensive or even intelligible sense with such a vast subject as the aims, constitution and status of the British Labor Party within the scope of a single article would be as impossible as to launch a liner in a lily pond.

I, therefore, propose in the present instance to describe how the Party came into being, the basis of its constitution, and its position in the politics of this country. Its home policy and its very important and clearly defined and dominion policy must be left for a further occasion.

First then, the British Labor Party was established in 1900. It was composed of the larger trade unions, some three Socialist Societies, not very strong, the Women's Labor League and a few trades councils, co-operative societies and local Labor parties. Its membership at that time was 375,931. For six years it ploughed hard ground, with only moderate success, but in 1906 what was looked upon as a political revolution took place. Out of 50 Labor candidates, 29 were returned to Parliament and a resolute, vigilant, capable Labor group was a factor in the House of Commons for the first time.

Growth during the 14 years that have since elapsed has been remarkable enough to approach the romantic. The Parliamentary strength is now 65 and the membership in the country is about three and a half millions (3,500,000). Of these there were reported at the last annual conference to be 2,960,409 from trade unions and 52,720 from Socialist organizations. I have allowed for successes since that date.

The constitution of such a rapidly increasing body has necessarily undergone processes of evolution and change. During 1918 an important scheme of reconstruction was formulated and carried out. With the extension of the franchise to women and to service men by reason of their war service only, Labor realized that it must enlarge its borders and modify its membership qualifications. Let me make it clear that women had always been admitted, welcomed and found invaluable workers. But their admission has been for the most part through the gateway of some union or affiliated society. Again, there has been a tendency, discounted by the leaders, but existing in practice, to consider the Labor Party as mainly for the manual workers. The brain-worker, when he or she came along, generally did so by way of the Independent Labor Party, which is the Socialist wing of the movement, and about which I shall have something to say later.

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What Labor now did was to make itself really and definitely a national democratic party, founded on the organized working class movement, but open at the same time to everyone who labors by hand or brain. Instead of being a mere federation of societies, the reconstructed party became a nation-wide political organization, with branches in every constituency. Membership is now open to any citizen, man or woman, who will subscribe to the doctrines of Labor. They may have a union or may have none.

I cannot do better than to quote on this point Arthur Henderson, the secretary of the party, and Sidney Webb, author of the present constitution.

"The Labor Party," says Arthur Henderson, "is the party of the producers whose labor of hand and brain provide the necessities of life for all, and dignify and elevate human existence." Sidney Webb puts it this way: "The only persons to be excluded — and that, of course, only by inference — are the unoccupied and unproductive recipients of rents and dividends — the so-called idle rich." It was well that Webb qualified his reference to exclusion, for as a matter of fact, there is quite a sprinkling of really rich people coming into the movement now. If a millionaire Socialist, who lived upon what his father left him were to apply for membership of a constituency Labor party, he could not and would not be turned away. There is

not and cannot be any such hard and fast rule or the cause would lose such men as H. M. Hyndman, the oldest Socialist of note probably in the world, who is a man of independent means "thanks not to my own exertions", he once told me, "but to the energy and thrift of my forebears."

The British Labor Party, therefore, while it fights capitalism, does not always scorn the capitalist.

The mechanics of the movement are simple and easily worked and understood. The Executive Committee consists of 24 members. Fourteen represent the National Societies' section, five the local constituencies section, four specifically represent the women, and the remaining member is the chairman of the Parliamentary Party, as consultant. He must not be confused with the chairman of the National Party. This, at present, is W. H. Hutchinson, an engineers' man. The Parliament men choose their own chairman, who is their nominal leader in the House, and is now William Adamson, one of the Scottish miners. When any especially weighty decision has to be taken, the executive and the M.P.s frequently meet together, and sometimes call to their assistance the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress. The ultimate action generally reflects some resolution on policy passed by the annual conference, although naturally there are many questions which suddenly arise and

have to be dealt with by personal initiative.

The official business of the Party is transacted in two houses in Eccleston Square, London. Here is located the Labor Research Department, which collects and collates information, political and industrial for the use of any section of the movement. There is a publicity department which issues paragraphs from time to time giving executive resolutions, and Labor news generally. As yet, it is in its infancy, but plans are afoot for extending its operations considerably. In addition there is a special department dealing with women's work, under Marion Phillips, Doctor of Economics, one of the most capable women in the movement.

These present headquarters are rapidly becoming too small for the increasing volume of work, and so there is under way an ambitious scheme for a central building to be at once a memorial to Labor men who fell in the war, and a London home for the movement. As well as offices, there are to be meeting halls, a restaurant and an hotel where delegates can stay on their visits to the Metropolis.

Concluding this article with an estimate of the Party's status in Great Britain, I may perhaps be allowed to explain that as higher, much higher, than its Parliamentary representation would argue. The trend of public feeling is coming Labor's way. Recruits of rather remarkable calibre are flocking to its banner. During the past few months an admiral, more than one general, at least two notable King's Counsel and a number of moderately prominent Liberal politicians have definitely declared for Labor. Then the middle classes and the black-coated workers are voting Labor at bye-elections and there are high hopes that at next General Election, which many people think will not be long delayed, Labor will make so strong an appeal to the country that its position will be vastly improved.

It should not be imagined that we are looking forward for a Labor Government forthwith. I question whether it would be good either for the country or for Labor. Its politicians must have a longer apprenticeship to the business of official opposition and learn the ropes better than they now do before a Labor Government can be a success. But it is coming and the people of Britain know it is coming. The Coalition is longing to make some sort of bargain with Labor and is not able to buy it. The country looks to the day that is ahead with expectations, tempered with anxiety, it is true, but real and keen none to the less.

That is the status of the British Labor Party as we know it today.

EXERCISE WAS GUARANTEED

Medical Friend. "Now that you have a car you must not neglect your exercise."

"Oh, we won't, doctor. This is a second-hand car."

OUR LONDON LETTER

(From our own Correspondent.)

EASTER is a great time for a conference of various sections of British Labor. This year there are a number of interesting gatherings.

The Independent Labor Party, the Socialist wing, meets at Glasgow to discuss general questions concerning the bulwarks to be erected against exploitations of the workers by capitalism, but the most interesting subject is contained in a suggestion that Labor in this country should favor affiliation to the Third or Moscow International. That is, of course, the Bolshevik organization and British Labor is not in the least likely to do anything of the kind. Soviets are not attractive over here, however much a small minority might fancy them. The fact is that the advocates of that sort of Government have only a faint idea of what they call "Sovietization" means and are a negligible quantity in our politics.

At Margate, one of our most bracing seaside resorts, the National Union of Teachers holds at Easter its jubilee conference. This union has grown rapidly during the past few years, and, in 1919, it put on 10,000 members. There are quite a number of fascinating subjects down for discussion. There is, of course, a demand for a higher scale of salaries. Several branches are backing a motion that a mini-

tablisher, which demand is modest enough in all conscience. One branch wishes to go further, however, and have a special increase where a teacher is married, with a family dependent upon him or her. Then a most interesting suggestion is that schools should no longer be built in slum areas, but put up on the outskirts of the cities, the local authorities being responsible for the cost of taking the youngsters to and from school. One district is in favor of formulating a system of spelling reform.

During Easter, also, the shop assistants are meeting to consider a new wages programme. Now the National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen and Clerks — we are rather addicted to mouthful titles — has a membership of 130,000, but as there are one and a quarter million people employed in the wholesale and retail distribution trades, its influence is much greater than its numbers. For instance, it is to discuss proposals that scales shall be pushed where and when agreements run out which, if adopted, would give the workers no less than \$450,000,000 a year. It is suggested that the top minimum for ledger clerks should be \$25 a week, and salesmen \$22.50, which is an advance on the average of \$5 a week. And when this union sets out to do a thing it generally contrives to succeed. Last year, for example, it secured \$8,750,000 for its London people and only spent \$155 in dispute pay.

The United Postal Workers, who have their meetings at Bradford, are interested in forming a strike fund. There is a good deal of restlessness in this union, on account of the delay which has ensued in settling their claims for increased wages. There is an amount of excited talk here and there, but on the whole the negotiations look like pursuing an even tenor. It is quite on the cards that this union may apply for inclusion in what is now known as the Triple Alliance and is made up of railwaymen, transport workers and miners.

Mention of wages claims reminds me that we have quite a number of these, either submitted or just settled. I will just mention some of them briefly:

Miners: want 75c. a day increase for men and 35c. for boys.

Trams, buses and commercial road transport workers: 144,000 are asking \$2.50 a week.

Cotton: Over 300,000 workers are about to demand 100 per cent increase.

Dockers: Their claim for a \$4 a day minimum is being heard and an interim report is expected any day.

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Postal workers: Want wages brought up to the value of 1914 with a \$2.50 a week addition.

Teachers: Ask a \$1,000 a year minimum.

Railway drivers and firemen: Have just consented to a Wages Board dealing with their application for such increases as will meet the cost of living.

The workers in our biggest railway union, the National Union of Railwaymen, will presently receive an automatic increase of 25c. per week under the sliding scale agreement. Living costs gone up 5 per cent since the last award and they are now entitled to the extra money under its terms.

The principle is thus made operative for the first time in the industrial history of Great Britain that wages shall fluctuate in definite proportions as the cost of living changes.

The outstanding feature of the hotly disputed terms of settlement of the railway strike last autumn was the clause that introduced the sliding scale. This clause laid it down that for every five per cent advance in the cost of living on the basic rate of 125 per cent the railwaymen should receive 25c. per week. The 130 per cent level therefore secure that 25c., so that the wages bills of the railways will now be increased by \$75,000 per week.

This rate will not be subject to variation for another three months, when a similar adjustment will be made. As the removal of the bread subsidy is expected to add twelve points to the cost of living index figure, and as there seems little likelihood of the prices of other commodities falling by the same amount in the near future, the railwaymen are fairly secure from any reduction for some time to come. In any case, and however much the cost of living falls, they cannot under the terms of the agreement lose more than the 25c. they have just gained until after September next.

If by that time prices have fallen below the 125 per cent level, the sliding scale will begin to operate in the opposite direction, and then will come the real test of the terms of settlement.

Meanwhile, wages claims for approximately 2,000,000 men in other

industries are in various stages of development. Wages and prices are still careering madly round the same old vicious circle.

The lack of unity between the two great railwaymen's unions, the N.U.R. and the A.S.I.E., is to cease, and a joint working arrangement between them will be made, if the recommendations of a sub-committee, which has been sitting at Unity House, are adopted.

Trouble has often arisen from the fact that while the A.S.I.E. membership consists of footplate men, the N.U.R. also embraces drivers and firemen. Now it has been agreed to recommend a joint committee of six members from each union to forward the interest of the locomotive men and electric train men on both societies, subject to the approval of the executive committees.

No movement is to be inaugurated until the joint committee has considered the question, and both unions shall co-operate in any agreed movement.

The National Federation of General Workers, the largest aggregation of unskilled and semi-skilled workers in the world, yesterday, decided in favor of the principle of payment by results. Some of our unions still object to the system of piecework, because they say that as soon as a man begins to earn good money, his rate is cut and he has to work his heart out for no more money than he earned before. The engineers are taking a ballot on it.

The National Federation of Professional, Technical, Administrative and Supervisory Workers, of which the preliminary conference was held in the beginning of February, is gaining a strong body of adherents amongst the various professional associations. It is felt that on such questions as income tax there is a great need for a body that can voice the common difficulties of the "black coats". Again, the new Unemployment Bill applies to all with a salary under \$1,250, and consequently includes a vast number of the poorer paid professionals. It is understood that the professional man's point of view is being put forward with a view to substantial modification of the Bill as it stands at present.

Ethelbert Pogson.

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GEO. PIERCE, Editor.

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Nationalization Blundering

IN the House of Commons on March 30 Dr. Reid, Minister of Railways, in submitting the first annual budget of the Canadian National Railway System, told of a loss of \$47,000,000 on operation in 1919, made up as follows:—

Canadian Northern	\$ 6,500,000
Intercolonial and Transcontinental	7,500,000
C. N. R. fixed charges	17,000,000
G. T. P. operating losses	5,500,000
G. T. P. fixed charges	8,500,000
Annual loss	\$47,000,000

It is evident that nationalization of Canadian railways, which may be a fine thing, some day, under different circumstances — when the people are thoroughly in power at Ottawa, for example — is a piece of monumental folly as things are run and organized to-day.

Dr. Reid was not cast down at a condition which would wreck any enterprise lacking such a good old milk cow as nine million Canadian people. He said: "If we imagine Canada to have reached the maximum of development, we shall have planned foolishly, but I, for one, have the faith to feel and the vision to prophesy that this great transportation system is not being prepared to perform this splendid transportation service in vain."

Rarely has such a Mark Tapley come into public view. He would see a vision of a higher race arising out of a higher death rate.

The appalling loss of \$47,000,000 as said by the Minister to be due to "abnormal economic conditions, delayed coordination of the complete National System and the loss on colonization roads." It was claimed that freight and passenger rate increases were not commensurate with increased cost of labor and material, and that the amalgamation of the Grand Trunk would give access to remunerative freight centres, but that colonization roads could

The appalling loss of \$47,000,000 was said by the Minister to

The apology is received and contents noted.

He had no plan to help things. His objection to advancing freight rates was based on the theory that it would add to C. P. R. income. His stand might be put this way: "I need a pint of milk for my child, but I object to taking it because Jones across the street will also get a pint for his child, and he already has a pint, because he was careful about his milk supply, while I spent my money on Chinese lanterns."

It is idle to blame the Conservatives alone. Part of the case was a heritage from the Liberals. Both parties have given us a real wallop.

K. C.

Labor Party the Loser

ANOTHER election freak furnishing propaganda for the supporters of proportional representation has come to light in the senatorial elections in Melbourne, Australia. The Labor Party, with a poll of more than 800,000, should have had eight seats, but actually received one. The Nationalist vote, only slightly larger, 840,000, returned 17 instead of the nine eligibles under the proportional system. The Farmer poll of 140,000 received no candidate, when it would have been entitled to one.

Mop Up the Movie Muck

By KENNEDY CRONE.

NOW and then someone takes a shot at the motion picture censors of the Province of Quebec on the ground that they have been over-censorious and made a ghastly mess of ART. I am suspicious of ART in capitals. When I see it coming I try to jink around the corner and if I am compelled to face it, I invent excuses for cutting the ordeal as short as possible — I am in a great hurry, as the kitten has the measles or something. In the language of the masses, ART gives me a pain.

In my time as a newspaperman I have heard a good deal of ART from the ART factory, and that breeds cynicism. Often, for instance, I have heard fat-bellied theatrical gents of the managerial variety speak wonderfully of ART. They would have a silk hat hanging on one ear, thumbs stuck in the armholes of vests, a long cigar tilted at the corner of the mouth like a gun of a first-class battleship. They would address me as "young feller" or "my dear chappie", and want to give me a "little snifter" from a bottle or a Havana from a box, or introduce me back stage to "some skirt, believe me". I know the ART of the stage or movie manager, the press agent, the mediocre players and other ART dispensers, and I am a Philistine of the Philistines. Generally players and other folk who express art don't make speeches on it; they merely express it in what they do and wish they could do it better. The real artists are likely to be ordinary human beings, with grouches about Shylock-contracts, long hours, boarding house food, lost trunks, the cobwebs behind the tinsel, and the high cost of living.

ART in capitals, to my mind, is first a question of how much advertising space ART intends to pay for in real money, and, in the second place, how precious little ART knows about art.

Therefore, I am not impressed with slams at the movie censors in the sacred name of ART.

I would be interested, however, in a slam at them for what they allow to go on the screen rather than what they cut away from it. They don't get that kind of slam because it has a reaction on the newspaper cash-box in the shape of threats from movie magnates to withdraw patronage, and the newspaper writer who helps to put a nervous tremor in the cash-box does not last long.

On the contrary, the newspapers tell us what fine pictures some of the most awful pictures are. Take those serial pictures, for instance. One does not need to be a prude or a church elder to see that the serials far outstrip in vicious sensation and horror the most lurid "penny horrible" or "dime novel" ever written. Any ordinary parent with ordinary thought for the welfare of children would condemn these pictures as totally unfit for children to see. They are not shown in theatres like the Imperial or Loews, but they are shown in scores of the smaller theatres where the audiences of young people are largest. I am sure from what I know of Judge Choquet of the Juvenile Court that he would condemn these pictures for the part they play in inspiring delinquency, and I would like to take the judge to see some of them, as the chances are that he has never seen any of them.

The very latest of these atrocities is "Daredevil Jack", featuring Jack Dempsey, the champion prize fighter, described as "Handsome Jack". There is no plot, only a quick succession of "thrills" that back the old stories of the wild and woolly west so far into the rear that they begin to appear like Sunday-school literature by comparison.

"Handsome Jack" looks like a gunman. I wonder if he can write his name. He has as much dramatic presence as a lump of clay, despite the evident hard work on the part of the picture directors to teach him his every move and facial "register". He is a hero. See him land the chief villain a swipe in the jaw once a minute or so! See him throw a dozen lesser villains

around about fifteen times in every instalment of the picture. See him calm and unafraid in face of the all the fearsome things that diseased mind of scenario writer can invent! See him rescue the beautiful maiden three times a day!

Also, see a poor little actress who needs the money trying to play heroine to his hero! She is not much of an actress, perhaps, but she is good enough to know what a dub of an actor her hero is.

And then ponder on this hero of a thousand film punches who sneaked off to an American shipyard to escape the drat for the real heroes.

"Daredevil Jack" is only one of a dozen of these film collections of horror and violence and cunning being shown in the theatres of Montreal every day, often across the street from churches on Sunday.

If the censors, who are Sheriff, Lemieux and Mr. Maxwell Sinn (ex-financial editor of the old Daily Witness) want to improve their censorship, let them not worry overmuch about ART and do some more worrying about movie muck.

Meanwhile, you, the ordinary citizen or citizeness who attends motion picture shows — and what ordinary citizen or citizeness doesn't? — have some sort of a weapon right to hand. It is to leave a note for the manager of the theatre telling him that unless he discontinues showing certain pictures your family will go elsewhere for movie entertainment. This has been known to be effective on more than one occasion, though it is by no means dependable in every case, for the reason that some movie managers are rough-necks not amenable to protest and who will tell you that they don't care a tinker's cuss for anybody or anything. Still, it is worth trying.

K. C.

Organized Labor's Political Plans

Samuel Gompers Urges Support of Candidates Favorable to Unions, Declaring That This Is to the Interest of All People.

(Christian Science Monitor)

Washington, District of Columbia. — Under the title "Labor's Political Banner Unfurled," Samuel Gompers tells in an article to be published in the April number of The Federationist, organ of the American Federation of Labor, how a political campaign is being organized in the interest of American working people.

"Labor," says Mr. Gompers, "will seek the election of fit candidates by a show of records and facts. Labor's fight is a partisan fight for the benefit of union men; a partisan fight for principles which are of benefit to union men and all men. Union men need liberty and justice and the fullness of democracy, and they are willing to fight for those things. But union men cannot win these things for themselves alone. If they are won they are won for all people. The interest of Labor extends to every measure that has to do with human welfare. The reason for this is the simple reason that what is known as Labor in an aggregate of human beings. Labor is not something that is impersonal. It is not like a machine, nor is it like a corporation. It is the sum total of all those who are useful to the world. Therefore the interest of Labor in legislation is no limited interest, falling between any two given points. It is an interest that completes the circle, touching everything that has to do with human relations. Congress cannot do any single thing in which Labor is not interested. Labor's approach to questions of public interest is from a basis of intimate contact with the realities of life."

The rights of men, that is to say the natural rights of mankind, are sacred things; and, if any public measure is proved mischievously to affect them, the objection ought to be fatal to that measure, even if no charter at all could be set up against it."

Edmund Burke.

Mr. Gompers quotes Labor's positions as being to unite all lovers of freedom, justice and democratic ideals and institutions against those seeking public office who are indifferent or hostile to the people's interests and the aspirations of Labor.

He gives Labor's program in the form of quotations from documents published by Labor in recent months. In regard to causes of the high cost of living, Labor has this to say:

"Existing high and excessive prices are due to the present inflation of money and credits, to profiteering by those who manufacture, sell and market products and to burdens levied by middlemen and speculators. We urge:

"The deflation of currency; prevention of hoarding and unfair price fixing; establishment of co-operative movements opened under the Rochdale system; making accessible all income tax returns and dividend declarations as a direct and truthful means of revealing excessive costs and profits."

Credit is considered as follows:

"We urge the organization and the use of credit to serve the production needs and not to increase the incomes and holdings of financiers. Control over credit capital should be taken from financiers and should be vested in a public agency, able to administer this power as a public trust in the interests of all the people."

"Public and semi-public utilities should be owned, operated, or regulated by the government in the interests of the public." (Adopted by American Federation of Labor convention, June, 1919.)

"We insist upon the right of the

workers to organize for their common and mutual protection and in the full exercise of the normal activities which come with organization," declared the convention of 1919.

Operation of Wharves and Docks

"The government should own and operate all wharves and docks connected with public harbors which are used for commerce or transportation.

"The Nation is possessed of enormous water power. Legislation should be enacted providing that the governments, federal and state, should own, develop and operate all water power over which they have jurisdiction. The power thus generated should be supplied to all citizens at rates based upon cost."

Large standing armies are opposed, and a reform of the courts, especially of the Supreme Court, to give the people the opportunity of direct and final action, is insisted upon.

Mr. Gompers makes the declaration:

"The American Labor movement in this campaign has the right to expect and to have the support of every man and every woman to whom progress has a meaning and who finds

"John, I hear you are ingenious human opportunity and the protection in the enlargement of rights and liberties already secured.

"It is clear that American cannot provide moral standards as expressed by her chosen representatives are equal to the strain that will be put upon them at home, and so it is with double significance that Labor sends forth to America this year the campaign slogan:

"Stand faithfully by our friends and elect them. Oppose our enemies and defeat them, whether they be candidates for President, for Congress or other offices, whether executive, legislative, or judicial."

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Our OTTAWA LETTER

(From our own correspondent)

WEDNESDAY, March 31st, saw the House of Commons adjourn for a brief vacation of five days and bring the first part of the session to a close. As a leader in the House Sir George Foster has been better than Sir Robert Borden ever was. His years gain him a certain immunity from attack and his mellow mildness and new accomplishment of French have done much to smooth his path. More interest was taken in the performance of Mr. Mackenzie, who was fairly and squarely on trial. He has made some excellent speeches, pulled his party out of a bad hole on Imperial matters and made no serious mistakes. But his mind works very slowly, he misses splendid chances of damaging retorts and he has not Sir Wilfrid's fine swordmanship in debate. On the other hand, he is painstaking and careful, and he has the international mind in a degree that no other member of the House except perhaps Mr. S. W. Jacobs possesses. What Mr. King has done this session is to strengthen his position with his own party. He assumed the leadership last autumn amid the frowns and studied coldness of a considerable contingent of his parliamentary followers. Many of the

English speaking Liberals were frankly critical of his selections, more than one was patently jealous. Today he has won the confidence and respect of some of his keenest critics in the Liberal ranks and they are prepared to give him a loyal co-operation which they had hitherto withheld.

But there are other supposedly devout Liberals from whom Mr. King receives neither loyalty nor co-operation. It is a truism that a Highlander never forgives and Mr. D. D. Mackenzie will never forgive Mr. King for depriving him of the Liberal leadership which he thought in his conceit was to fall like a ripe apple into his lap, and of \$7,000 per annum, probably an even greater source of grievance. Mr. Mackenzie is fair and pleasant in the open but he never loses an opportunity of doing as much damage as possible to his leader and the programme he advocates.

But perhaps even more discreditable has been the conduct of Premier Martin of Saskatchewan. He too was obviously piqued at the selection of Mr. King who is his contemporary. He backed the veteran Mr. Fielding for the leadership with the reservation that in a few years he himself might step into his shoes. Mr. King's election put a summary end to these dreams and Mr. Martin made no secret of his pique and annoyance at the decision of the Convention. Since then he has behaved very shabbily to his Federal leader. He accepted office on the National Liberal Committee and then resigned it because as he is reported to have said "he had lost interest in Federal politics" and had friends on both sides at Ottawa, including doubtless Mr. J. A. Calder who placed him where he is. Now when Mr. King makes the perfectly proper suggestion which is accepted by the Government and is backed up by the main body of progressive opinion in Canada that we should proceed to secure for ourselves the same powers as Australia and South Africa possess to amend our own constitution by local process and end the formality of running cap in hand to the Imperial Parliament whenever any deviation has to be made from the terms of the B. N. A. Act, the worthy Premier of Saskatchewan promptly comes out most reactionary with a statement denouncing the proposal and reveals himself as an exponent of the old colonialism which Mr. D. D. Mackenzie and Mr. Fielding delight in. He talks a lot of sentimental nonsense which would sit well upon the lips of a Vice-Berent of the Daughters of the Empire but ill becomes a leading Liberal and especially the Premier of a great progressive province like Saskatchewan. If Premier Martin



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AGENCIES
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thinks we should continue in a state of indefinite subordination to the mother country, as we must be as long as cannot amend our own constitution, then he is completely out of touch with liberal opinion in Canada and it is little wonder that the farmers of Saskatchewan are planning an assault upon his Government. But the more probable interpretation of his conduct is jealousy rather than reactionary opinions. However, disloyalty in politics is almost as bad a crime as reaction and invariably meets with its fitting punishment. Premier Martin has blown hot and cold over most important issues since he assumed office and in the present temper of Canadian politics there is no place for him even as a nominal leader of progressive forces. It is certain that his opinions on the Imperial problem do not represent more than those of a small minority of the electors of Saskatchewan.

Of the other prominent figures in the House Mr. Meighen has been comparatively quiescent. He wears a mournful and distracted air and looks as if there was ever running through his mind the melancholy lines

"Of all sad words of tongue and pen The saddest are these 'It might have been'."

THE OLD RELIABLE

MINARD'S "KING OF PAIN" LINIMENT

YARMOUTH, NOVA SCOTIA

Sir Thomas White, the floor-walker of the interests, as that matter of epigram Sir Sam Hughes christened him, made one pregnant speech and at intervals favors the House with his august and ennobling presence. Sir Henry Drayton is alert and chery, but his real testing time is yet to come with the Budget. Mr. Sifton rarely appears and when he does occupy his seat wears an air of languid boredom, which betokens either a complete contempt for his colleagues or a complete lack of interest in public affairs. Mr. Calder, who is off for a rest cure plus a conference with Sir Robert, is a regular attender in the House but studiously refrains from taking it into his confidence. The secret closet

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rather than the open forum is his chosen sphere of political action. All hope of discovering any new vein of political talent or oratory in the Coalition back benches has long been abandoned and fortunately some restraining power, possibly the tactful Mr. Calder, has laid a ban of silence upon some of the worst bores like Mr. G. B. Nicholson and Dr. Whidden. May it mercifully continue.

On the Liberal benches Mr. Lapointe and Dr. Béland have both made excellent speeches and done useful work. The former grows in political equipment in the House. Mr. Fielding is visibly ageing and is a conservative force in his party. Mr. Cahil has done little or nothing and Mr. Kennedy shows a quite unnecessary diffidence in taking the part which which he is capable of playing. Dr. Duff of Nova Scotia is beset by no such shyness, and as a result has become one of the most useful members of the Opposition. He is enterprising and industrious, he has the thorough knowledge of a specialist of more than one important subject and he has a proper contempt for the capacity of Mr. Ballantyne and other Ministers.

The independent progressives have been handicapped by the absence of their leader, Mr. Crerar, through an illness which has proved more serious than was anticipated and will necessitate his absence for at least another fortnight. However his chief lieutenant, Dr. Clark, has risen splendidly to the occasion and led the little party with considerable skill. They can, through him, always be assured of a vigorous and clearcut exposition of their views and he has raked the Government fore and aft on more than one occasion. Mr. Maharg has also done well and of the four recruits, Mr. Caldwell shows most distinct promise as a parliamentarian.

On the whole, no reputations have been made or lost during the session's first half. The Franchise Bill, which was expected to provoke a fierce controversy, has already gone into committee with what are almost murmurs of approval from the Opposition, who are thankful it does not teem with manifold iniquities and while some amendments will be pressed and the fireeaters of the Coalition will clamor for more ferocious treatment of aliens, its passage without any prolonged struggle is reasonably assured. The chief interest now is concentrated on the Budget, which will not be brought down before the middle of April and may be deferred to the end of the month. There is no escape from a huge deficit, though the revenue, thanks to increase in prices rather than increase in trade has greatly exceeded the calculations of Sir

Thomas White. No tariff reductions are expected and it is rumored that some western Unionists who refrained from following Mr. Crerar last year through promises of tariff reductions in 1920 are restless and may assert themselves. But most observers of this Parliament will want to see the votes recorded ere they bet upon the insurgency of any of our dumb driven Coalitionists.

There was a comparatively meagre attendance during the three days which the House sat last week. On Monday Dr. Michael Steele was let loose upon a resolution calling upon the Government to devise measures to prepare all immigrants of alien origin for assuming the duties and responsibilities of Canadian citizenship. He waxed very eloquent upon the perils of the present state of affairs and foresaw dire disaster if something was not done. He was stronger on statistics than arguments and while he talked a great deal about Canadianism and Canadianisation, he failed to give or even attempt any definition of the former term. There are so many kinds of Canadianism that the poor alien must often be distracted in selecting which to follow as a model.

Given the opportunities and time there are few aliens who would not avail themselves of opportunities to learn English and give the money there are few who would not instal telephones and refrigerators. But adoption of the outwards trappings of a community are no guarantee of spiritual incorporation within it and the cold truth is that the civilization we have allowed ourselves to rear has all too little to attract the devoted allegiance of the hearts of men born in other lands. Once we have established for Canada some settled ideals other than mere moneymaking and so-called development of natural resources and have made good citizenship an accepted principle of life for the mass of the English and French speaking community, we shall have no difficulty in "Canadianizing" aliens. But till this desirable goal is attained it is sheer waste of breath for Dr. Steele to introduce any such resolutions.

On Tuesday Dr. Reid delivered an account of his railway stewardship which obviously some pen, less hostile to the King's English than his, had writtten. It was a mournful story he had to tell and he rolled it out with too great a relish for the ardent champion of public ownership which he professes to be.

In the evening a great pillar of public ownership—for ships but not for paint—was upon the grill in the shape of Mr. C. C. Ballantyne, who only managed to get through his shipbuilding vote well after mid-

night as a great concession from the Liberals and Independents. He gave a long account of his shipbuilding programme and the operation of the national marine and his breast swelled with pride at the profits of 5 and one half per cent, which the ships of the state has made. Mr. Ballantyne will soon be asked to resign from the Mount Royal Club if he goes on talking about public ownership with the same warmth and zeal as he did last Tuesday and we may expect to hear that he has purchased for his sanctum portraits of Karl Marx and Sidney Webb. But Mr. Duff and Mr. J. H. Sinclair turned some cold douches of criticism, which he obviously dislike, upon him. They accused him of tell-

ing only about the swans of his fleet and omitting to divulge the fate and experiences of some ugly and unfortunate ducklings. He was also accused, by allocating privately shipbuilding contracts for the last two years, of rendering himself liable to serious penalties for infringing a statute which wisely decrees that all public contracts exceeding \$5,000 in value must be placed by public tender. Mr. Ballantyne received very little help from his own side and had to face a running fire of questions and criticisms.

General Griesbach has some right and title to advocate compulsory military service though all he usually succeeds in doing is to let people see that the fine flower of Prussian mentality can bloom in other lands than east of the Elbe. But a middle-aged Toronto lawyer like Mr. MacDonald Mowat has none and is guilty of gross effrontery when he wastes the time of the House with his schemes of compulsory military training. It is to be hoped that this fireeating attorney attended some of the lectures of Siegfried Sassoon, M.C., in Toronto, last week, and learnt something of those horrors of war which that poet has so gruesomely depicted. The proposal never had a chance of a hearing and received its deathblow by a wise speech from Major Andrews D.S.O. lately president of the Great War Veteran's Association, who scouted the whole plan as a waste of time and money and a contravention of the ideals our soldiers died for.

J. A. Stevenson.



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Whitley Councils In Montreal

(Special to Railroader)

The cursory observer of industrial conditions, the drawing-room economist, and the fiery gentleman of soap-box fame, observing the surface froth that from time to time obscures the basic soundness of the Capital-Labor pot, have made it their pet diversion for many decades to wail dismally and with much idle ranting inform everyone in general that the world had just about run into the jaws of the demnition bow-wows. The apostles of unrest and the disciples of discontent have monopolized the band-waggon long enough. Let them make way for a tune of a different nature.

How many people are there in Montreal who know anything about the earnest and successful efforts that are being put forth at the present time by numbers of our most prominent industrial organizations, capitalistic and labor, in an honest endeavor to secure an enduring industrial peace in the best interest of the whole community? In comparison with the prophets of ruin, there numbers are few indeed. Yet a thorough investigation of labor conditions in Montreal at the present date shows that not only is the industrial sea unruffled, but that serious efforts are being made by organizations of both employees and employers to put into practice the get-together spirit preached by the re-constructionists, through the establishment of joint industrial boards or councils as outlined in the Whitley Report in England, and recommended by the British Government. In almost every industry, in Montreal, where the plan has been tried, both employers and men have declared that they would not revert to the old method of "dog eat dog", strikes, and brickbats, for any consideration. Differences which in the old days were more likely than not to result in a dead-lock, ill-feeling, a strike, and disruption of industry, are now amicably solved at the round table. Such industries prove but sorry ground for the fiery gentlemen of revolutionary rhetoric already referred to.

One of the oldest and most successful of these joint standing councils of employers and employees is that which for the past two years has regulated conditions and solved problems in the local fur trade. The fur workers union has been for many years one of the strongest labor organizations in Montreal. Up until two years ago, the Montreal public had grown accustomed to listening to occasional unpleasant squeaks in the machinery of the fur trade. Two years ago, inability to solve mutual problems resulted in a strike, a strike well-remembered by those familiar with local labor history,—not so much as a mere labor struggle, but because from its conclusion dates the

establishment of the Board of Conciliation, a joint industrial board very similar in its workings to those advocated in the Whitley Report.

This conciliation board is composed of five representatives of the employers and an equal number representing the employees, who meet regularly in joint session under the presidency of joint chairmen chosen by each side. To it is referred for settlement any difficulty that may arise in the various shops over the interpretation of a wages contract or working conditions. This board has now been in operation for over two years, and there has not arisen a single misunderstanding that has not been cleared up by the board.

Both employers and men in the fur trade are eminently satisfied with the scheme. Albert Roy, who is local business agent and sixth vice-president of the International Furworkers Union, when interviewed on the subject, declared that the members of his organization had no complaint to make against the way in which their interests had been dealt with by the board. All matters of a contentious nature were submitted to the conciliation board as soon as they were brought to the notice of the officers of the local. In this way, declared Mr. Roy, he felt sure that many a strike had been averted, thus giving to the trade a stability as necessary for the welfare of the workers as for that of the employers.

Mr. R. E. McIlhorne, secretary-treasurer of The Redmond Company, Ltd., wholesale hats and furs, also speaks very highly of the work being done by this council. "The best of feeling exists between this company and its employees", he said. "We have always found the joint board to work for the best interests of all concerned. It has been found quite satisfactory. There was a strike some years ago, but there is little fear of that now. If the board had existed then there would have been no strike. When it was over, we decided that the best way of discussing our mutual problems was at the round table with the workers, not as employees, but as men. Before that, the employees were meeting in their union rooms discussing their problems; while the employers also were holding meetings, sometimes at the same time. There was no co-operation. Now we get together, the mutual difficulties are submitted to the board and the result is an amicable settlement."

Still another board of a similar nature, although of more recent origin is that of the local organization of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America. The underlying plan of this council was originated as long ago as 1910, in Chicago, where a joint board of

"Ah, I see it clearly before my eyes, the city of justice and happiness!... No more idlers of any kind, and hence no more landlords supported by rent, no more men of fortune kept like mistresses of fortune; in short, no more luxury and no more misery! Ah, is not this the ideal of equity, the supreme wisdom, no privileged classes, and none doomed to wretchedness; everyone creating his welfare by his own effort, the average of human welfare."

Emile Zola.

employers and employees was established at that time as the result of labor difficulties in one of the large clothing manufacturing shops. Over 8,000 employees were represented in this first council. As the scheme was found to work to the full satisfaction of both sides, it was soon adopted in other shops, in Chicago, and at the present time joint boards are now in operation in all the large clothing centres in the United States and Canada, including New York, Cleveland, Rochester, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Boston, Toronto, Montreal and Hamilton.

The joint board as constituted in Montreal is composed of a labor manager of the employers with secretary and other assistants, and of the manager or business agent of the clothing workers, who at the present time is Mr. B. Rishikof. The chairman of the board is chosen by both parties and must be entirely independent of any connection with either the employers or the men. According to Mr. Rishikof, the clothing trade is the only trade in Montreal choosing the chairman of a joint board in this way, and paying him jointly by equal contributions from both employers and workers. The chairman of the board is Mr. Charles C. Barnes, who acted as mediator in Cleveland when difficulties arose between the lady tailors and the clothiers before a joint board was established.

Through the medium of this board, a system of collective bargaining is now universally accepted in the clothing trade in Montreal. The Union has been fully recognized by the clothiers and preference is always given to union men. When any dispute arises in any of the shops, whether it be in reference to wages, conditions of work, the efficiency or inefficiency of the individual men, the question is first submitted to the attention of the union officials, who at once take the matter up with the parties concerned. Failing agreement, the dispute is then submitted to the joint board, whose decision is binding on both parties. Ninety-tenths of all misunderstandings are cleared up without the parties going before the joint board, said Mr. Rishikof. Although the system is of comparatively recent origin in Montreal, Mr. Rishikof stated that in the main it was giving satisfaction. Some of the shops have not yet become entirely accustomed to the idea, but he expressed the opinion that soon everyone in the craft would come to realize fully the great advantages to be derived from the joint board.

Joint councils also exists in several other trades in Montreal, notably among the rubber workers. Efforts are being made in numerous industries to organize similar bodies. The opinion is confidently expressed in labor circles generally that another year will see large numbers of these councils. The workers in almost every craft are enthusiastic over the place, and are willing to co-operate in every way to bring it to fruition; the opposition, where it is found, is always on the other side of the fence.

—:o:—

Accident to a Shirt

Husband (looking up from the paper which he has been reading) — "I see Thompson's shirt store has been burned out."

Wife (slightly deaf) — "Whose?" Husband — "Thompson's shirt store."

Wife — "Dear me, who tore it?" — Blighy (London).

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LABOR-EASTER

The following is unusual in a labor paper. It appeared at the top of the front page of the Montreal Labor World of April 3:—

"Easter signifies intense symbolism. It means so much in the lives of workers throughout Christendom, that the subject seems in suggestion like trying to grasp a huge globe, too large for the hand. It embodies death and life. The simple beauty of the sacrifice for all mankind, which the death of the Son of God signifies, has never been fully told by artist, writer, or sculptor. Yet through the ages the old story remains unsullied that Christ died for men. If the cross and its incident superlative sacrifice means nothing then all our civilization is in vain. If the tomb and the crucifixion are only myths and if the stone was not rolled away and Mary the mother waited not in anguish for the body of her Son in the flesh, and if "I am the Resurrection and Life" means nothing to life today, then all that is best and most endearing in home and happiness may as well be forgotten and life is casting anchor in the harbor of dreams. But no, it cannot be any other than the mighty truth of a great creation echoing down the centuries and Christ still lives, the hope and salvation of a tired world. Hail to the great Easter lay, the revival of our faith and the joy of the days to come! Let there be flowers and song and rejoicing that Christ is risen and a new, clean life awaits the faithful and the just, saying in your hearts, "Except ye become," said the Lord of the Earth, "as children, ye cannot be mine." 'Twas given to HIM this wondrous new birth by the hand of the Father Divine.

C. D. C."

A TOTAL BLUNDER

"What became of that young man who was paying so much attention to you?"

"I don't know. I let him walk to the grocery store one afternoon with me, and after he saw how much we had to pay for things to eat, he just quit coming to see me." — Houston Post.

Winston Churchill, the British Secretary of War, has oftentimes stated that Labor is not fit to govern the country. However, Baron Morris, the former Premier of Newfoundland, speaking as the guest of the London Commercial Club, is reported to have said: "I am quite satisfied that among the great producing masses of this country, or indeed of any country, men could be found as well able to govern as in any other class. Some day, the labor and industrial classes will find with what little wisdom the world is governed."

More Deadly Than War

Statistics show that influenza is much more deadly than war. In a few months it took more victims than fell in over four years of fighting.

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WINNIPEG

THE KING'S "MY"

(London Daily Express)

Another king's speech has been read by the sovereign at an impressive stage opening of Parliament, and the Daily Express ventures on a criticism without any fear of misunderstanding. It is a criticism of literary style of a recurrent phrase of the "my" which is so freely used on these occasions. There is here no question of attachment to the monarchical principle or of loyal devotion to the person of a sovereign who has earned in the fullest measure the respect and hearty affection of all his subjects. Rather, we would put it that the criticism is inspired by these very sincere sentiments. Frankly, this "my" — my armies, my court, my possessions, etc., — grates upon twentieth-century ears. It has become an anachronistic form. It exposes the monarch, among the blatant, if negligible, persons who are filled with a red republicanism to criticism and insinuation which baseless and contemptible, may thus be endowed with some show of substance. King George V, is the most democratic and constitutional of monarchs. It is for the ministers who are responsible for these speeches from the throne, for the advisers who, if they could, would erect a wall between throne and people, to consider the substitution of a form of phrase more in tune with fact and sentiment, more expressive of the true and very happy relations which unite king and people. All the pomp and circumstance of majesty are proper in their place — when the King-Emperor addresses the Empire's dependencies, when function and dignity are towards. A reiterated "my," however, constitutionally correct, conveys a false and unfortunate impression. We submit the point, with the loyal respect, for the consideration of His Majesty and of ministers of the crown.

EMPLOYERS ORGANIZE

The Employers' Association of Manitoba held an organization meeting at Winnipeg on March 30, at which fifty-one directors were elected and principles of the constitution set forth. The main objects are:

To promote on a fair and equal basis, industrial peace and commercial prosperity in the community, and the steady employment of labor.

To discourage lockouts, strikes and unfair demonstrations by either employer or employee and to secure for employer and employee freedom of contract in the manner of employment.

It was declared in many of the speeches made that employers were not organized to combat unionized labor, but as long as laborers organized for the purpose of assisting their members by honest effort to improve conditions in general, the association would work with it in every possible way.

Twenty-five different groups of industry and trade were represented.

OUR SCOTTISH LETTER

(From our own correspondent)

Glasgow, March 20.

GLASGOW Housing Committee, in a strong letter to the various unions and associations in connection with the building trade, appeals for a special effort, during the summer months, in connection with the erection of houses, in accordance with the Glasgow scheme. The letter is as follows:—"The Housing Committee of the Corporation received a deputation from Govan Parish Council who urged the necessity for a vigorous pressing on of housing schemes. The deputation pointed out that the Council had under their care no fewer than twenty-four children, whose parents, though earning good wages, were unable to find any other accommodation for their families, than what in plain language is known as the Poor House, and deprecated the associations which must attach themselves to these children if left in such environment for any length of time. The Committee view these statements of the Parish Council with grave concern, and, having knowledge also of many serious cases of overcrowding, and the separation of members of families, with the consequent absence of family life, they resolved to make an earnest appeal to the building trades (masters and operatives) to sink all differences so far as housing schemes are concerned, and to beg them to make a combined effort for the realization of the projects of the

Corporation for the housing of the people. In this connection, it is pointed out that, with the climatic conditions which obtain in Scotland, the favorable building season is comparatively short, that we are approaching that season now, and that if those engaged in the erection of houses were to make some sacrifice in the public weal, by extending the hours of labor while the weather is favorable, great things might be accomplished by the end of the coming summer to relieve the unhappy housing conditions of so many of the citizens. (The Housing Committee appeals confidently to both masters and operatives for a serious and sympathetic consideration of the problem, the speedy solution of which will reflect the public spirit, and redound to the credit of all concerned.)"

Miners' Wages Demand.

An expression of opinion on the miners' demand for an increase in wages of 75c. per day was given to me by Sir Adam Nimmo, a prominent Glasgow coalowner, and it is always well to hear the other side. It was inevitable, he said, that if any increase in wages were granted at the present time, the price of coal for domestic and industrial purposes would require to be increased, as it was well known that the present price does not cover the cost of production. If the price of industrial coal were increased, the result must be an increase in the price of all commodities in which the manufacture of coal is an important factor. It may be further expected, he said, that, in the event of an increase, there will be a tendency to reduce output at a time when the output is already much short of the demand. It must also be evident to everyone that it would start a movement for an increase in wages in all the industries of the country, and the cost of living would grow higher. The Government, in dealing with the application, must consider the effect upon the nation as a whole and they must not be prepared to do anything in respect to miners' wages that they would not do in regard to the wages of other classes of workers. If there were a surplus profit in the coal industry, it should, undoubtedly, be given into the Exchequer, to be used for national purposes. The coalowners of the country, who are having their profits most seriously restricted, would strongly object to marking time upon their restricted profits, if the miners were to receive an advance in wages. The coalowners would be entitled to receive their fair share if the miners obtained a share of the surplus profits. The Government may expect to have to

reckon with the coalowners, apart altogether from the community as a whole.

Win For Office Staff.

The dispute between Messrs. William Beardmore & Co. and their office staff, at the Naval Construction Works, Dalmuir, has been settled, and the workers have now resumed work. It is stated that the firm has agreed to recognize the National Union of Clerks, to which a large number of the office-workers belong. A committee representing the staff has been appointed to conduct negotiations with the firm on the points at issue. The manual workers, who came out in sympathy with the clerks, have also resumed work.

Engineering Wages

The Industrial Court, in the application of the trade unions connected with engineering for increased wages, has decided on an advance of \$1.50 per week on the time rates of men 21 years of age and over and 15 per cent on piecework prices. The claims of the unions were in general for an advance of \$3.75 per week to men and \$2.50 per week to youths and boys.

The court points out that while, during the exceptional circumstances of the war, it was proper to take into account the cost of living as the principal determinant of wages, other considerations now arise. It expresses the view that the remuneration of the workpeople should depend on the value of the work done, and that the value of the work done depends on the state

of the market. The engineering trade is in a condition of exceptional activity owing to the need for repairing the loss and wastage of war.

Application of the advance embodies a new principle so far as general awards previously given in the trade are concerned, provision being made for half the advance to become due on April 1, and the remaining half on June 1. The advances are payable to all workers irrespective of age so far as they are employed on piecework, and also to laborers under 21 years of age who are customarily paid men's rates. An award substantially similar in terms has also been issued in respect of the shipbuilding and ship-repairing trades.

The Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society and the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employees have agreed to arbitration by the Ministry of Labor on the demands made for over 2,000 workers. The subjects of reference include the claims for a \$17.50 minimum for men, \$13.50 for women, a 44-hour week, and an annual two weeks' holiday with pay.

Clyde's May Day.

The Clyde Federated Trades have recommended all the affiliated organizations to observe a general Labor holiday on May 1, when it is expected all work on the Clyde will cease for the day. Employers have been asked to pay wages on April 30, so that the holiday may be complete.

James Gibson.

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THE FREE ADVOCATE

(Contributed.)

WITH the holding of a meeting which is announced to take place shortly under the auspices of the Charity Organization Society of Montreal, there will come to a head the expression of a need which exists for helping the poor, the unfortunate and the erring when they or those belonging to them, appear in the public law courts. Every person who has any acquaintance with the law courts — whether civil or criminal — knows full well what a maze they present to the uninitiated, and how necessary is the pilotage of the qualified man. In criminal courts the good old British law is that the person before the bar is innocent until proved guilty. A fine principle indeed: but very few people realize that the poor and undefended person is often unable to establish his (or her) innocence owing to the fact that the prosecuting authority — the Government of the land — is backed up by expert talent and officers to whose interest it is to establish their case.

Look at the prisoner in the dock, perhaps a young man of twenty years of age who is charged with theft from a big corporation. In the Court of Special Sessions he is faced with the deputy Crown prosecutor, or the Clerk of the Court, or it may be a special lawyer engaged by the corporation to prosecute on their behalf. The accused man is a driver of a rig who has little education. He pleads in English or French as he may choose, but he hears the babel of the language he does not know often thrown in unofficially, or from a witness who is only partially interpreted. The man

in the dock having no advocate, is asked when the witness has finished: "Have you any questions to ask?" — the kindly intention of the law being to afford him the opportunity of rebutting the testimony just heard, by tripping up the witness. The fact, however, that almost any day one may hear the accused person make a rambling statement in response to this permission indicates very clearly how imperfectly the purpose is understood. But if the accused has a lawyer, the latter begins to pepper the witness with questions that frequently so embarrass him (or her) that the testimony is discredited in the eyes of the bench. This applies particularly to such matters as identification, time and occasion of alleged offences, conversation that ensued and so forth, and many an accused person is released — possibly sometimes when guilty — owing to the power of cross-examination.

If this is so, then surely it is only just to claim that all accused persons unable to afford legal help, shall be assisted by society, in whose name they are prosecuted. That help should be provided by the Government which has jurisdiction over the court, for if every accused person is innocent until proved guilty, then surely the State should go a step farther and arrange that the necessary technical advice shall be given to establish innocence if possible. If the Government — or the Crown, as it is styled in law — can, by rendering such assistance, save a certain number of accused persons from going to jail in the way, surely it is to the benefit of the State; for while legal help may have to be paid for, there must be a reduction in the number of jails and their staff which have to be maintained: in addition to which a human soul may be saved from that broad prison thoroughfare which leads down, down, down.

In all probability there will be alternative schemes proposed, one of which is the creation of a Legal Aid Bureau, which will try to persuade a number of young lawyers to volunteer their services. It is not clear so far whether the promoters of this project intend also to help those in civil courts. In general it is not desirable to encourage civil litigation, but there may be special cases where assistance in this direction may be needed in order to establish just rights. The hope may be expressed, however, that the tendency of the new arrangement, if it is effected, will not be in the direction of more prosecution. Even a Legal Aid Bureau might at times do useful work in bringing conflicting parties together rather than in bringing the one before the law. But the spirit of the whole thing should be that of helping men and women to escape from condemnation under the law by a reasonable and well-conducted presentation of all the circumstances of the case. Only in this way can the old cry of "One law for the rich and another for the poor" become obsolete.

Caedmon.



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